

Claim Amendments:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (allowed): An isolated TGF-beta fusion protein comprising amino acids 1 to 160 of SEQ ID NO: 8.

Claims 6-7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (withdrawn): An isolated polynucleotide encoding, on expression, for a TGF-beta Type II receptor linked to a second protein that is not a TGF-beta Type II receptor.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 8, selected from the group consisting of: (a) SEQ ID NOS.: 10 or 12; (b) a polynucleotide that hybridizes to the foregoing sequence under standard hybridization conditions and that encodes a protein having the TGF-beta inhibitory activity of a TGF-beta Type II receptor fusion protein; and (c) a polynucleotide that codes on expression for protein encoded by any of the foregoing polynucleotide sequences.

Claim 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A vector comprising the polynucleotide sequence of claim 9.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A host cell containing the vector of claim 11.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A method for producing a TGF-beta receptor fusion protein, comprising culturing the host cell of claim 12, allowing said cell to express the fusion protein, isolating and purifying the fusion protein.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A method for lowering the levels of TGF-beta in an individual in need thereof which comprises administering to said individual a TGF-beta-lowering amount of a TGF-beta antagonist that is a TGF-beta receptor fusion protein comprising the sequence of amino acids of SEQ ID NOS: 8 or 9.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A method for lowering the levels of TGF-beta in an individual having arthritis, which comprises administering to said individual an effective amount of a TGF-beta antagonist that is a TGF-beta receptor fusion protein comprising the sequence of amino acids of SEQ ID NOS: 8 or 9.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A method for treating an individual for a medical condition associated with TGF-beta overproduction comprising the step of administering to the individual a TGF-beta Type II receptor fusion protein having an amino acid sequence shown SEQ ID NOS: 8 or 9 in an amount sufficient to reduce the activity of TGF-beta in said individual.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method of claim 16, wherein the TGF-beta receptor fusion protein is administered by a method selected from the group consisting of intravenous, intraocular, intraarticular, transdermal, and enteral administration.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method of claim 16, wherein said medical condition comprises a fibroproliferative disorder.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein said fibroproliferative disorder comprises a fibrosis selected from the group consisting of kidney, intraocular, and pulmonary fibrosis.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein said fibroproliferative disorder is selected from the group consisting of diabetic nephropathy, glomerulonephritis, proliferative vitreoretinopathy, and myelofibrosis.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein said fibroproliferative disorder is a collagen vascular disorder selected from the group consisting of systemic sclerosis, polymyositis, scleroderma, dermatomyositis, or systemic lupus erythematosus.

Claim 22 (amended): A TGF- β RII fusion protein comprising: (1) a biologically active amino acid sequence which corresponds to all or all part of the extracellular region of native TGF- β RII and which is at least ~~60~~ 90% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 9, or equivalents thereof, ~~or naturally occurring variants thereto~~; and (2) a constant region of an immunoglobulin, wherein the fusion protein binds to TGF- β .

Claim 23 (previously presented): The fusion protein of claim 22, wherein the constant region comprises IgG.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The fusion protein of claim 23, wherein the constant region comprises IgG1.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The fusion protein of claim 24, wherein the constant region comprises the hinge C_H2 or C_H3 portion of IgG1.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The fusion protein of claim 22, wherein the biologically active amino acid sequence comprises amino acids 1 to 160 of SEQ ID NO: 9.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A TGF- β RII fusion protein comprising: (1) a biologically active amino acid sequence which corresponds to all or part of the extracellular region of native TGF- β RII and which is at least 60 90% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 8, or equivalents thereof, ~~or naturally occurring variants thereto~~; and (2) a constant region of an immunoglobulin, wherein the fusion protein binds to TGF- β .

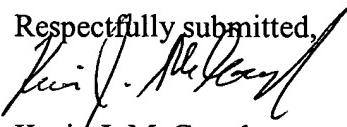
Claim 28 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of a fusion protein of claim 22.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of a fusion protein of claim 27.

Claim 30-39 (cancelled).

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Respectfully submitted,


Kevin J. McGough
Reg. No. 31,279
Attorney for the Applicants
914-337-4082 (Office Number)

Of Counsel-Coleman, Sudol & Sapone
714 Colorado Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605-1601
(203) 366-3560
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